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# U.S. 13 Smyrna exit to close for work

## Final leg of Del. 1 construction project to shut southbound ramp for one year

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Staff writer

SMYRNA — Travelers will find a closed exit on U.S. 13 southbound just north of Smyrna in the coming weeks.

David Duke, project resident for the Delaware Department of Transportation, said the exit 119A ramp will be closed beginning the week of June 10, weather pending.

"The ramp in Smyrna will be closed so that we can build the final legs of (Del.

1)," Mr. Duke said. "Southbound traffic is the only one that is affected."

"But we're giving (travelers) all options available."

The ramp will be closed through May 2003, but southbound travelers will have the option to use exit 119B, north of the Smyrna rest area, or exit 114 to south Smyrna.

Mr. Duke said the tolls have been suspended at exit 119B for the duration of this project.

"It's a personal choice of which exit they choose," Mr.

Duke said. "We want to make sure everyone who wants to get in north Smyrna to the businesses, can use 119B."

"We want to make sure this isn't an impact to the town of Smyrna."

There also will be directional signs and message boards notifying the public of the new traffic pattern.

"It's really not a change in the volume of traffic on U.S. 13," Mr. Duke said.

This traffic switch is phase one of a project that will be completed in September 2003.

"This is to provide a new link from Dover to Wilmington," Mr. Duke said.

The project will separate U.S. 13 from Del. 1 north of Smyrna.

"It's going to be a complete separation of the two routes," Mr. Duke said. "We anticipate that all the work will be complete by September 2003."

"The final phase would be opening the whole length (of Del. 1) from Smyrna to Odessa. It's going to be big."

D. Michael Williams, spokesman for DelDOT, said the new stretch of Del. 1 that will be built in the next year will not cost travelers any additional tolls.

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